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WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

Volume III
Number 2

June
1949

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

THE COMMERCIAL LENDING LIBRARY IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mary Will C. Conaway
Public Library of Marion County

What do I think of a commercial lending library in a public library? Well, I had never heard of one in a public library and when I was approached by the agent of McNaughton's Lending Libraries, I was pretty well horrified. Just why, I couldn't have said, except my ideas of such a library were formed by the ones I had seen in drug stores, railway stations and some stores. But after talking with Mr. White, I found myself willing to give it a trial, and from our experience we have discovered it to be most worth while.

In the first place we, as do all small libraries, operate on a very limited budget, not permitting the purchase of many books and rarely ever more than one copy. It always hurt to spend money for light entertaining novels or for ones of limited circulation, when our funds were needed for more worth-while books.

We stipulated at once, that we did not want books of the type usually found on lending shelves, and we were promised that no such books would be sent, that the privilege of selection would be ours, and that any books sent of which we did not approve would not be placed on our shelves. In fairness to the lending library, I would like to say that few such books have been sent.

We have found the advantages to be many: new patrons, and an increased income. Many new borrowers have been secured—business men and women who had never been in the li-

Miss Ethel Green
Clarksburg Public Library

The Clarksburg Public Library inaugurated a rental shelf twelve years ago. In the fall of 1936, the library had no money for books, and the circulation was decreasing. The Book Committee thought new books would rent and provide funds to build up the library's book stock and attract more readers. The Woman's Club gave a silver tea at the home of Mrs. J. Carl Vance and raised \$130 to finance the project. Mrs. J. Ransel Romine secured an additional check for \$50 from the One Hundred Club.

Miss Bailey bought thirty-five popular novels in December; the books went out and the dimes and pennies began to accumulate. The rental fee has been from the beginning, and still is, ten cents for three days and three cents a day thereafter. Each year the receipts from the rental books have exceeded the original stake; last year we collected \$629, and in the eleven months of the current year we have already taken in \$720.

There are about 150 books in the rental collection which is shelved in a prominent place near the circulation desk. Each book remains on rental as long as there is an active demand for it. When they are put in the general two-week shelves, they are still popular and usually circulate promptly and frequently. Since we do not buy duplicate copies of the new books for the free shelves, people who prefer not to pay, wait and wait until the books they want are available in the general collection.

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NEWER TRENDS IN LIBRARY EDUCATION

Florence K. Reese, Head
Department of Library Science, West Virginia University

Within recent years, heads of library schools began to realize that drastic action should be taken, that courses of study should be revamped to keep pace with newer trends in every field. They realized that persons entering the field should have a broader background of training, that candidates should be more carefully selected, that there should be less emphasis on technical detail. The reorganization of library schools began in earnest in 1947; the eastern group met at Columbia, the western group at Berkeley, Calif., and another group met at the University of Illinois. It was the consensus among librarians that the courses of study should be broadened, giving attention to humanities, science, literature, social studies, the principles of psychology, a study of the literatures of the various subject fields. Developments in special fields, such as adult education, needs of the teenage groups, hospital service, research and extension work, including the use of the bookmobile to rural areas, all came in for consideration. They stressed the need for a study of public relations, a more definite line of demarcation between clerical and professional duties, making it possible for persons with special talents and special training to give their service where it would be most effective.

The Board of Education for Librarianship of the American Library Association approved the courses of study as recommended, and the following schools adopted the new program: Denver was first to adopt its program in May 1947, followed by Columbia, Illinois, Carnegie, Emory, Western Reserve, University of Florida, Drexel, Simmons and Syracuse. A number of schools have not adopted the program, which is experimental and will continue in this state for perhaps a

year or more, until they evolve a fully satisfactory course of studies. The basic change in the program was the recognition of the fifth year's work as of graduate level.

Out of this reorganization developed two schools of thought: one, represented by Illinois and Denver, recognized the need for training at the undergraduate level; hence, a minor in library science is given with the bachelor's degree. They base their philosophy on the theory that school libraries and many phases of public library work, as well as extension work through state agencies and through the use of bookmobile units, do not require as extensive language background, or special training necessary in a large reference or research library. If, after some experience, the librarian wishes to continue training it is not a difficult step to a master's or even a doctor's degree. These schools give graduate work, and Illinois offers a doctorate in library science. Emory University and the University of Florida vary their degrees according to the amount of work done and preparation or non-preparation of a thesis. This allows leeway for different types of positions. Some schools give no undergraduate work. A number of the schools which have not accepted the program have not been satisfied with its content and will very likely wait to see how successful it is and what changes should be made to make the program really satisfactory.

Reorganization was needed, but questions keep coming in demanding if it is a complete revision of the kind of library training so many persons now in service knew or is it rather a change in nomenclature, without too much change in content? What will be the status of the librarian who re-

(Continued on p. 6)

PROPOSED LIBRARY BUILDING AT WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE

Mrs. Leonead P. Drain, Librarian

No definite date has been set for the beginning of the construction of the library building at West Virginia State College, Institute, but the library staff, the faculty and students of the college are eagerly awaiting the announcement. Funds have been appropriated but a previous bid for the construction was deemed too high.

For several years the plans of the building have been studied and discussed by President John W. Davis, the library staff, the Library Committee and the architectural firm of Tucker and Silling of Charleston, W. Va. An attempt has been made to combine usefulness, simplicity, and beauty in the structure.

The exterior of the building, as now planned, corresponds to the general exterior of the other buildings on the campus in its modern Tudor design. The material to be used in the construction will be brick and stone. The ultimate or anticipated cost of the building and equipment has been approximated at \$800,000.

The interior floors will be of asphalt tile, and the lighting will be by means of fluorescent two-lamp fixtures. The building will have its own heating unit, with radiators in the reading rooms to allow for more heat than will be in the stack area. Extra consideration has been given to the heating of the stack area for the preservation of books and materials.

The first floor is on ground level at the front. Because of the slope of the ground there will be a ground floor, as well as a second floor. There will be four stack levels, and a mezzanine between the first and second floors.

Some of the facilities of the ground floor will be a receiving room, offices for the staff, staff study nook, lounge and kitchenette, vault, heating plant, classrooms, a

seminar room, provisions for audio-visual aids and means of converting three rooms into one large room that will seat not less than eighty-five persons during the showing of films, a service elevator, a record room with acoustic tile walls and ceiling, a microfilm and photostat room, a vertical file room, telephone booth, etc.

On the first floor there will be a West Virginia room for books and materials pertinent to West Virginia, exhibit room, general reading and reference room, technical processes room, reserve room, the main circulation desk, the catalogs, a coat room, and stack carrells on the mezzanine.

A browsing room, a periodical and map room, stack carrells (a total of thirty-two on mezzanine and second floor) and seven study rooms, will be located on the second floor.

Future expansion can be accomplished by the addition of top stories over the reading and reserve rooms and over the stack area.

And so, when the building has been completed, West Virginia State College will be able to point with pride to its center of knowledge, for it is felt that a much more efficient service can be rendered to the faculty, to the students, and to the citizens of the state.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Due to a change in postal regulations, an issue of West Virginia Libraries can now be mailed for 1¢ only if it contains no more than seven pages. As a result, this issue has had to be cut, and many items of interest omitted. Also, it was felt that, in order to include as much material as possible, the front and back covers should be omitted.

W.V.L.A. ANNUAL CONFERENCE
E. M. Grieder, General Chairman

The annual conference of the West Virginia Library Association will be held in Morgantown, October 28-29, 1949. The following schedule has been tentatively drawn up:

Friday, October 28:

Morning - Registration

Afternoon - General session, program

Evening - Banquet, Ralph Munn, librarian, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, speaker.

Saturday, October 29:

Morning - Business meeting

Noon - Section luncheons

Afternoon - Section meetings

The program for the general session has not yet been formulated. Mr. Munn expects to speak on the Public Library Inquiry at the annual banquet on Friday evening. Section programs for Saturday afternoon are to be organized by each section of the association. The chairmen who will direct the planning of these programs are as follows: Friends of the Library, Mrs. I. D. Humphries, Ronceverte; College Libraries, E. M. Grieder, West Virginia University; Public Libraries, Charles Butler, Kanawha County Public Library.

The following committees have been appointed to make local arrangements: Banquet committee: Mary E. Wattles, chairman; Maryella Durigg, Betty Berlin. Exhibition committee: Budd L. Gambee, chairman; Blair Lyle, Lenore Lederer. Committee on meeting places: Elizabeth Tarver, chairman, Mrs. Eloise Newlon, Dr. O. D. Lambert,

The Morgan and Franklin hotels in Morgantown state that enough rooms between them can be assured if advance registrations are received by October 1. Rates for these two hotels are as follows: Morgan Hotel, single, \$3.25 - \$4.00; double, \$5.25 - \$6.00; Franklin Hotel, with running water, single, \$1.50 - \$2.00; double, \$2.50 - \$3.00; with bath, single, \$2.50; double \$3.50 - \$4.00.

The Association will not take registrations for hotel rooms, but every

member of the Association who plans to attend the meeting should send in his reservation as soon as possible.

Further information will be circulated to the Association when more detailed plans are worked out.

Conaway - LENDING LIBRARIES

(Continued from p. 1)

brary now come regularly. Young people who had not known the library's services now come in for the latest best seller and stay to read the magazines and become acquainted with other books. At first, we kept about 25 or 30 books on our rental shelf, but now we have a collection of about 400. Many of these "rentals" are older books but the jackets are fresh and clean.

Rentals average over \$200 per month and our percentage of this permits the purchase of more nonfiction books which are greatly in demand. We feel more free to purchase a book of special interest for a patron, because of having this additional fund without any effort on our part.

Books such as Eisenhower's Crusade in Europe, Churchill's The Gathering Storm, Shaw's Young Lions, Sandburg's Remembrance Rock, and similar ones are found on our rental shelves as soon as released. These and the latest popular novels, of which there are often as many as four copies, are available to our readers without any ordering or effort on the part of the library. If there are books we do not care to place on the shelves, they are kept until the next visit of the agent who takes them away, relieving us of any packing or writing of letters.

Yes, I would say that the commercial lending library in a small public library has many advantages. It is especially useful in the library of limited budget. It introduces many new borrowers to the library and its other services. It enables the library to offer a wider choice of latest fiction as well as the latest nonfiction and many of the modern technical volumes not possible otherwise.

West Virginia Libraries is the official organ of the West Virginia Library Association. It is published quarterly. Contributions and other communications should be addressed to the Editor.

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Vol. 3, No. 2

June 1949

Editor Mary E. Wattles
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Morgantown, West Virginia

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EDITORIAL

THE 50 GREAT BOOKS
Mr. J. D. Maurice
Charleston Daily Mail

The public library -- is it a luxury or a necessity? Is it something we can provide for, if at all, when everything else has had its share? Or is it something which has a prior and pressing claim on our interests and support?

It all depends on what kind of people we want and what sort of country we care to live in and call our own. If a race of automatons--placidly inhabiting the rut of custom, satisfied with the ways of its fathers or convinced that they cannot be bettered--is our idea of the good society, then perhaps the library is a luxury. We can provide for it, or not, as the balance in the treasury

may indicate. But if our idea of the good society centers on men aspiring to something better, then the library, the companionship and stimulation of good books, cannot be overlooked.

In this connection there is a true, if not yet fully authenticated, story of the West Virginia mountains. One of the early settlers in the state was an educated man who brought with him some 50 or 60 of the great books. He found his place between the mountains, almost completely isolated from the outside world of learning. His books became the community's public library and almost its sole link with the great men and the great ideas of other ages.

Because of the community's isolation, preserved for years, it affords something like a controlled laboratory experiment on the influence of the printed word. What effect did this small library have on the lives of the men who came under its spell?

There is, of course, no statistical measure. But to men who know West Virginia, it is highly significant that this small village in one generation produced more teachers, professors, judges, doctors, legislators and statesmen, more men of substance, achievement and leadership than any of its neighbors. Their influence upon a growing state, although immeasurable, is pervasive and persistent. Without those 50 or 60 great books it is impossible to explain the powerful force they exerted upon the lives of their fellowmen and the history of their state.

We can answer, then, the question about the library: Is it a luxury or a necessity? Just as surely as we want the better life and must depend upon men of unusual insight and noble purpose to lead us toward it, we must provide the environment suitable to their development. The library, giving range to their thoughts and stimulus to their imaginations, is one of the indispensable ingredients of that environment.

SCHOOL LIBRARIANS WORKSHOP

The program for the two-day work conference for school librarians which will be held August 22-23, 1949, at West Virginia University, will consist of discussions centering around problems suggested by the elementary, junior and senior high school librarians of West Virginia. An invitation is extended to all school librarians, to school administrators and teachers, to librarians of public libraries engaged in serving schools, and to librarians who are teaching courses in library science in other institutions in the State.

Miss Sarah Jones, assistant director of the Textbook and Library Division, State Department of Education, Atlanta, Ga., will direct the conference. The consultant will be Nora E. Beust, Specialist for School and Children's Libraries, U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C. In addition to Miss Jones and Miss Beust, several school librarians from West Virginia will act as group leaders.

The University residence halls will be open to those attending the conference. Rooms will be available Sunday night through Tuesday. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served Monday and Tuesday, the entire cost for the conference being \$7.50 plus tax. Application blanks for the conference may be obtained from Miss Florence Reese, Department of Library Science, West Virginia University.

Green - LENDING LIBRARIES (Continued from p. 1)

Books are chosen with a thought for their permanent value, as well as for the desires of our patrons. Undue preponderance may be given to requests inspired by the New York Times and New York Herald-Tribune book reviews, which so many of our borrowers depend on for their reading provender. However, we do have a fair proportion of what Mrs. Curme, who helps pick

out books most likely to be of enduring worth, calls "prestige" titles, that should prove to be valuable additions to the library.

For several years we have depended on Baker & Taylor for their "Outstanding Books." These are ten just-published books which they select and send each month with a hundred copies of an attractive, annotated book list which is excellent publicity for the rental shelf titles included.

Our rental collection has been a popular and successful venture so far. At this point we have decided to follow Fairmont's example, and have asked McNaughton's, Inc., to install a rental library for us. They plan to send double the number of titles we have been buying, so an alluring prospect of more new books ready to circulate and more readers is opening before us for next year.

LIBRARY EDUCATION TRENDS (Continued from p. 2)

who received a bachelor's degree at the end of the fifth year of training compared with the M.S. degree received under the new program? Then too, what policies are being considered by the various library schools to convert this B.S. degree under the old regime to a modern streamlined M.S. degree in library science? All replies received from library schools, with the exception of one, seem to indicate that it will require an additional year of study. This lone school frankly admits they have considered the problem but have taken no action. Will a master's degree in library science under the new program mean any more than the bachelor's degree under the old program, particularly for an individual who has completed work for a master's degree in a subject field? There are many librarians in service who will be considering some of these points before they plan to work toward an advanced degree. Would it be wiser to work

toward a doctorate in a subject field? Perhaps a solution can be worked out for this, particularly if there is a real desire on the part of the library schools to add to the stature and usefulness of the professionally trained library personnel.

BOOKS AND LIBRARIES REPRESENTED
AT FARM WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
Mrs. Ruth Gambee
W. Va. Library Commission

Smooth, fragrant lawns ringed by wooded hills, the rising bell at 6:30 (!) calling us to a huge breakfast and a day packed with activity, the Swedish spinning song we learned at assembly, housewives hurrying from one end of the "campus" to the other between classes -- all these are random memories of a pleasant week spent at the annual Farm Women's Leadership Training Conference at Jackson's Mill, May 9-13.

It was my privilege to represent the State Library Commission by conducting a series of workshops on Books for Young Homemakers. Not all of the people who tramped into class were young, but they seemed to enjoy looking through and discussing the books which were brought from the Commission collection. Not only were there titles on child care, hobbies, cooking, and home decoration, but also the best of newer recreational reading.

Books and reading were elsewhere represented on the week's program. Mrs. Earl Evans, of Moundsville, a charming newcomer to this state, was the speaker at Thursday's assembly. Both there and in her morning classes on Children's Literature, she emphasized the great influence of reading on children, her points well fortified by her rich and varied experience. Librarians in this state will welcome her as a valuable ally.

Meetings with groups such as the Farm Women's Clubs give an added impetus to the organization of public library service in this state.

NEWS AND NOTES

Miss Lenore White, formerly librarian at the EUCOM Technical Reference Library in Heidelberg, has been named chief librarian of Munich Military Post with supervision over fifty-five book collections located in seven sub-posts.

Miss White, whose home is in Baltimore, formerly helped edit the Shepherdstown Register and served as a librarian in Charleston.

Miss Ella Mae Taylor, visiting instructor in library science at West Virginia University during the first summer session, 1949, is librarian of the Eastern Illinois State College High School, Charleston, Ill. Miss Taylor is a graduate of Berea College and completed her library degrees at George Peabody College for Teachers.

Miss Mary W. Richardson, Kanawha County Public Library, was married on April 16, 1949, to Mr. Walter Ellis, Charleston.

Miss Elizabeth Kennedy, former reference librarian, Kanawha County Public Library, resigned in March to accept a position in a Naval Hospital library in Norfolk.

Miss Leota C. White will take up her duties as junior reference librarian, West Virginia University, on July 16. Miss White is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and of its Library School. Her home is in Northfield, Minn.

Miss Eleanor Hamilton, librarian, Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling, expects to visit England this summer.

Miss Carol R. Casto, a native of Emory, Virginia, will be junior catalog librarian at West Virginia University, as of August 1. She is a graduate of Emory and Henry College; the George Peabody Library School, and is now a cataloger at the University of New Hampshire.

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